

# Dean's the man at DNC

by Carole Migden

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the second in a series of such columns.

A recent mid-week trip to chilly Washington, D.C. was very much worthwhile, to witness Governor **Howard Dean's** coronation as the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee. I've made no secret of my great admiration and affection for the former Vermont governor, the original "freedom to marry" leader. It seems that the rank and file members finally tired of the cold mashed potatoes being served by national Democratic leaders. Old guard Democrats **Nancy Pelosi** and **Harry Reid** shuddered as Dean took the mantle as the party's top dog. New Mexico Governor **Bill Richardson** tried to woo the delegation with weight loss and weightless remarks ... seems he's shaping up to be on the short list for VP in 2008.

Speaking of freedom to marry, in my home state of New York, NYC Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** has given his public support for us to marry while simultaneously appealing a New York court decision that grants us this right. I don't get it: Mayor Mike, this is how you show your support!?! If the United States had that kind of backing from allies in WWII, we would all be speaking German right now ... I'll take Mayor Gav any day of the week.

Our talented city attorney, **Dennis Herrera**, who has been



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praised in the *New York Times* for his articulate and brilliant work on the marriage issue, is up for re-election this November. His remarkable record of accomplishment is matched only by his innate ability to navigate through the complex and often-treacherous legalities to best represent the city. I am proud to count on him as a friend and I am even prouder to be represented by him. His one weakness ... besides chocolate éclairs? He won't admit it, but my partner **Cris Arguedas** outdrives him on the golf course. There is no doubt in my mind that Herrera will be easily re-elected.

Assembly Speaker **Fabian Nunez** (D-Los Angeles) and I are taking the lead on new legislation that will remove "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" for the California division of the National Guard ... only bears need apply. Talking gays in the military, many feel that current policies compromise intelligence gathering; apparently only gay soldiers speak Farsi - what's up with

that?

Did you see the Grammys? A bald **Melissa Etheridge** belting out an old Janis Joplin ditty while battling with breast cancer - truly inspiring. Then we have **Rosie O'Donnell** standing up for foster kids. These are times where we need to get on board with celebrity activism ... so I am going to launch the **Brad Pitt** for Governor in '06 recruitment. We need to fight fire with fire, and I hear it is true that Mr. Pitt has been converted by **Angelina Jolie**. Plus I know Mr. Pitt would garner some votes with this paper's readership.

Our own celebrity governor was in D.C. too, trying to get California more federal dollars. We hope **Arnold Schwarzenegger** can bring something back other than T-shirts - after all he went to Ohio to get Bush re-elected. Can he get some respect in the morning?

All my fellow legislators we know are stitches ... but none can sew a stitch, which leads to the new preoccupation with knitting. I think we are all just getting our applications together for **Martha Stewart's** new reality show.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge my old friend **Wayne Friday** who had inhabited this space for over two decades. His sharp wit and precise analysis will be sorely missed. Wayne's column was that first thing I read on Thursday mornings ... I wish for him nothing but good times in his retirement. So Wayne, how was your week? ▼

State Senator Carole Migden represents portions of San Francisco and Marin counties. Bill Barnes contributed to this column.